February 6, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Judicial Tenure Commission dismisses Hathaway ethics complaint

"The Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission has dropped its ethics complaint against former state Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway after she pleaded guilty to bank fraud in federal court last week. She still faces scrutiny from the Attorney Grievance Commission, which will decide if she can keep her law license."

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Judge's ex-wife blamed for his girlfriend's drunken driving arrest

"The girlfriend of a Macomb County Circuit judge is challenging her arrest for driving under the influence while the judge and his children were in her vehicle. Jeffrey Lance Abood, the attorney representing Brenda Conway, says the case is the work of the judge's "bitter" ex-wife."

Full story

The Detroit News: Racial, ethnic diversity of juries to be discussed (fifth article)

"A forum to address the issue of racial and ethnic diversity of federal and state juries and the importance of jury service is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Lebanese American Heritage Club, 4337 Maple St."

Full story

Associated Press: Court: Drug charge OK in worried neighbor case

"A Detroit-area man can be charged with drug crimes after police checking on his well-being entered his home without a warrant and discovered marijuana growing in a closet. The Michigan appeals court reversed an Oakland County judge and reinstated the case Wednesday against Eric Hill."

Full story

Ann Arbor.com: Circuit court judge denies motion to re-sentence juvenile lifer

"... [Washtenaw County Circuit] Judge Archie Brown issued a written statement Jan. 28 denying [Bosie] Smith's motion for relief from judgment of sentence, citing a recent state court ruling that may or may not withstand a separate juvenile lifer ruling last week in a federal court."

Full story

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Elementary students get a glimpse of court action

"... [The case of 'Krabs v. Plankton'] was the topic of a courtroom drama played out in 52nd District Court in Clarkston last Wednesday as part of the Oakland County Bar Association's Mock Trial Program conducted annually for area elementary school students."

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Grand Rapids Press: Supporters of former Zeeland attorney ask for leniency in \$800,000 fraud

"Despite stealing \$800,000 from clients' estate trusts, former Zeeland attorney Kenneth Hoesch has many supporters seeking leniency when he is sentenced Wednesday, Feb. 6. Hoesch, 59, pleaded guilty to mail fraud. Federal sentencing guidelines, which are advisory, call for a minimum ranging from 63 to 78 months in prison."

Full story

HOM TV/Okemos: Meridian Magazine: Jury Duty Scam (18:32-19:09 minute mark)

Podcast

Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo County District Court to close Portage courthouse March 1

"The Kalamazoo County District courthouse on Shaver Road will close March 1, Chief Judge Paul Bridenstine said Tuesday. The closure will come the day following Judge Carol Husum's retirement from the bench. No current employees will lose their jobs with Husum's retirement, Bridenstine said, but her typist will also be retiring."

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Attorney Harrison Honored by Marquis Whos Who in America

"Foster Swift attorney, Michael Harrison, of the Lansing office, has been included in the 2013 Edition of Marquis Whos Who in America.... Before joining Foster Swift in 2001, Michael Harrison served as a judge of the 30th Judicial Circuit of Michigan for nearly 25 years. He was Chief Judge for 12 years and served by assignment on the Michigan Court of Appeals on a number of occasions."

Full story

The Macomb Daily: Attorney's accuser says he stole more than money

"A 20-year-old Warren man said the attorney who allegedly stole nearly 400,000 of his and his brother's trust fund shattered their college plans and tainted their father's legacy. Stephen Tate commented after Robert C. Buschmohle was charged Tuesday with embezzlement over \$100,000 for stealing from the \$500,000 trust fund established in 2007 by the late Derek Tate for his sons: Stephen and Keith Tate, 18." Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Former Jackson judge pleads guilty to misdemeanor charges

"A former Jackson County district judge has pleaded guilty to four counts of willful neglect of duty. The charges are misdemeanors. The Michigan Supreme Court removed Judge James Justin from the bench a year ago. Justin was suspended in 2010 due to allegations of misconduct."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Former Jackson judge pleads guilty to willful neglect of duty Full story

The Oakland Press: Ex-Jackson County judge pleads guilty to misdemeanors Full story

WKAR News/East Lansing: Ex-Jackson County Judge Pleads Guilty To Misdemeanors

Full story

WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Plea Deal Keeps Former Jackson Judge Out Of Jail Full story

The MiLW Blog: Grant elected chair of the JTC

"Judge Nanci Grant was unanimously elected as chairperson of the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission during its February meeting [Tuesday]. Grant is the chief judge of Oakland County Circuit Court and was elected to the bench in 1996. She was elected in 2007 to the JTC by the state's circuit court judges as their representative."

Full story

Muskegon Chronicle: Driving up fees: Muskegon County leaders speak out on Michigan's driver responsibility fees

"Maria Ladas Hoopes, chief Muskegon County 60th District judge: 'It definitely penalizes the economically challenged ... You can only hammer these people so hard.' Michael J. Nolan, 60th District judge: 'It's just a bad idea. It's a tax on the poor primarily, because people keep driving. If they need to drive, they drive. ... Once people get under that snowball, they find it hard to get out from under it.' "

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Judge's journey told to PALS

"The Polish American Legal Society (PALS) conducted its first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Polish Village Café in Hamtramck. The featured speaker was Macomb County Probate Court Judge Carl. J. Marlinga. Happy to present Marlinga to PALS were retired Judge Richard Wygonik and Wayne County 20th District Court Chief Judge Mark J. Plawecki."

Full story